

Mark 5:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

Analysis

And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat. Jesus' response to the miracle reveals His priorities. 'He charged them straitly' (διεστείλατο αὐτοῖς πολλά, diesteilato autois polla) means He strongly commanded or strictly ordered them. 'That no man should know it' (ἵνα μηδεὶς γνοῖ τοῦτο, hina mēdeis gnoi touto) seems paradoxical—how could they hide a public death and resurrection? Jesus sought to limit sensational publicity that would hinder His ministry and turn Him into mere miracle-worker rather than Messiah. He wanted focus on His teaching and identity, not spectacle-seeking.

'Commanded that something should be given her to eat' shows beautiful pastoral care. After demonstrating cosmic power over death, Jesus attends to practical need—feeding a hungry child. This reveals Jesus' character: sovereign power combined with tender concern for basic human needs. Eating proved she was genuinely alive (not ghost or vision), provided needed nourishment after illness/death, and returned her to normal family life. The detail illustrates incarnational theology—Jesus cares about both eternal souls and temporal bodies, spiritual needs and physical necessities. His ministry addressed whole persons, not disembodied spirits. This balance challenges both hyper-spirituality that ignores physical needs and materialism that ignores spiritual realities.

Historical Context

Jesus' command for secrecy (the 'Messianic Secret' in Mark) served multiple purposes: preventing premature popular messianic movement that would force political confrontation before appointed time, avoiding mob enthusiasm that would hinder teaching ministry, and managing expectations about His messianic identity (suffering servant, not military deliverer). The request was practically impossible—how hide that a publicly dead girl now lived? Yet it delayed widespread sensational reports long enough for Jesus to continue ministry in the region. The command to feed her reflected Jewish understanding that eating proved resurrection—ghosts didn't eat, but resurrected bodies did. Later, Jesus Himself ate fish after resurrection to prove His bodily reality (Luke 24:41-43). The mundane detail (give her food) after cosmic miracle (raising dead) illustrates the incarnation's mystery: fully divine (conquers death) yet fully human (cares about child's hunger). Early church fathers noted the progression: Jesus raises the dead, then ensures she eats—similarly, He gives spiritual life (regeneration) then provides spiritual food (Word and sacraments) for growth.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' balance between cosmic power (raising the dead) and mundane care (feeding the hungry) inform Christian ministry priorities today?
2. What does Jesus' concern to limit sensational publicity teach about pursuing faithful obedience over public acclaim or impressive results?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	διεστείλατο	αὐτῇ	πολλὰ	ἵνα	μηδεὶς	γνῶ	τοῦτο
And	he charged	her	straitly	that	no man	should know	it
G2532	G1291	G846	G4183	G2443	G3367	G1097	G5124
καὶ	εἶπεν	δοθῆναι	αὐτῇ	φαγεῖν			
And	commanded	that something should be given	her	to eat			
G2532	G2036	G1325	G846	G5315			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 8:4 (Parallel theme): And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Mark 1:43 (Parallel theme): And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away;

Mark 7:36 (Parallel theme): And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;

Matthew 9:30 (Parallel theme): And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.

Mark 3:12 (Parallel theme): And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.

Matthew 17:9 (Parallel theme): And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

John 5:41 (Parallel theme): I receive not honour from men.

Luke 8:56 (Parallel theme): And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

Luke 5:14 (Parallel theme): And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

